

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In paragraph 45 (according to the published version of the application), please amend as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0045] Optionally, the sheath 12 may include a side port 19 that communicates with the lumen 16, for example, to allow the infusion of fluids into the lumen 16, through the sheath 12. Alternatively, or in addition, the side port 19 may be used to provide a "bleed back" indicator, such as that disclosed in co-pending application Ser. No. 09/680,837, filed Oct. 6, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,626,918, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Positioning a Vascular Sheath," which is assigned to the assignee of the present invention. The disclosure of this application and any references cited therein are expressly incorporated herein.

In paragraph 46 (according to the published version of the application), please amend as reflected in the following marked-up version of the paragraph:

[0046] A housing 24 is slidably disposed on an exterior of the sheath 12, the housing 24 configured for releasably holding the closure element 26. The housing 24 may include an ejector or other mechanism (not shown) for deploying the closure element 26 from the housing 24. In a preferred embodiment, the closure element 26 is an annular-shaped clip, including one or more barbs 28 for engaging the tissue around the puncture adjacent to the wall of the vessel. Preferably, the clip 26 is configured for drawing the tissue around the puncture at the wall of the vessel substantially closed and/or for enhancing hemostasis within the puncture. Exemplary embodiments of a housing and closure element for use with an apparatus in accordance with the

present invention are disclosed in co-pending application Ser. Nos. 09/478,179, 09/546,998, and 09/610,238, now U.S. Patent Nos. 6,197,042, 6,461,364, and 6,391,048, respectively, the disclosures of which are expressly incorporated herein by reference.